



SAFETY/HAZMAT INFORMATION

We all have a common goal to improve the quality of our nation's river; however safety is our first consideration. HAZMAT materials that you might find on your shoreline include hypodermic needles, any sealed containers filled with fluid, personal protection and hygiene products, and any medical waste. The following are some safety and HAZMAT collection tips.

- ✓ Individuals with open wounds should not expose them to the stream water.
- ✓ Wear gloves and boots to avoid sharp objects.
- ✓ Point out any safety hazards such as particularly muddy areas, steep banks, rock areas, etc.
- ✓ Review safety precautions on materials not to be handled: sealed barrels, gas canisters, full beverage containers, aerosol cans (they may explode if there is compressed gas inside)
- ✓ Do not open any unopened containers.
- ✓ Medical waste should be handled only by the site leader or sub-site leader and disposed of in a HAZMAT container. (See below for *How To Make A HAZMAT Container*)
- ✓ Have a first aid kit and clean water on hand for washing and drinking.
- ✓ The person collecting HAZMAT materials should wear a double layer of latex gloves and steel toe or thick leather boots -- not canvas shoes!
- ✓ HAZMAT materials should be picked up with a pair of tongs.
- ✓ *How To Make A HAZMAT Container*: use a heavy plastic detergent bottle with a handle for ease in carrying. Mark with a HAZMAT label that is included with the packet.
- ✓ When placing a needle in the HAZMAT container, place the container on the ground before inserting the needle, point down, using tongs.
- ✓ At the conclusion of the cleanup: remove and dispose of the top pair of gloves, sterilize the tongs, remove and dispose of second pair of gloves and container in a sealed trash bag. Wash hands carefully. To be cautious, you may fill the HAZMAT container with plaster of Paris.
- ✓ If a volunteer is pricked by a needle wipe off skin and clean with alcohol. Then wash with soap and running water. To avoid risk of infection injured person should consult a physician.
- ✓ Avoid eating, drinking, smoking, or touching eyes and mouth until hands are washed.